

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
- selecting a mode, the mode is FRONT_ONLY, BOTH_SIDES, or BACK_ONLY;
 - determining a viewing angle;
 - determining an object angle defined by a planar object surface;
 - calculating a theta equal to the viewing angle minus the object angle plus pi;
 - assigning a function of theta to alpha, if the mode is FRONT_ONLY or BOTH_SIDES;
 - assigning a function of theta minus pi to alpha, if the mode is BACK_ONLY;
 - comparing alpha to zero;
 - assigning zero to alpha, if the mode is FRONT_ONLY and alpha is less than zero;
 - assigning zero to alpha, if the mode is BACK_ONLY, and alpha less than zero;
 - assigning minus alpha to alpha, if the mode is BOTH_SIDES, and alpha is less than zero;
- and
- assigning a transparency factor to alpha.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
- identifying a first vector normal to a viewing surface and incident at an object having a planar object surface, the first vector creating an angle of incidence at a second vector normal to the planar object surface; and

modulating the transparency of an image of the object as a function of the angle of incidence ~~of the vector at the planar object surface~~, wherein the function comprises a cosine function.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

identifying a first vector normal to a viewing surface and incident at an object having a planar object surface, the first vector creating an angle of incidence at a second vector normal to the planar object surface; and

modulating the transparency of an image of the object as a function of the angle of incidence ~~of the vector at the planar object surface~~, wherein the function comprises a non-linear function.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a transparency factor for an image of an object, the method comprising:

selecting a viewing surface;

selecting a vector normal to the viewing surface;

determining an angle of incidence at a vector normal to a planar object surface created by the vector normal to the viewing surface; and

calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence, wherein calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence comprises calculating a cosine of the angle of incidence.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a transparency factor for an image of an object, the method comprising:

selecting a viewing surface;

selecting a vector normal to the viewing surface;

determining an angle of incidence at a vector normal to a planar object surface created by the vector normal to the viewing surface; and

calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence, wherein calculating the transparency factor from the angle of incidence comprises calculating a non-linear function of the angle of incidence.

29-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable medium comprising a storage device comprising a memory; and

a computer program capable of being executed from the computer-readable medium by the processor to modulate a transparency factor of an image of an object as a function of an angle of incidence of a first vector at a second vector normal to a planar surface of the object, the first vector being normal to a viewing surface, wherein the function comprises a cosine function.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable medium comprising a storage device comprising a memory; and

a computer program capable of being executed from the computer-readable medium by the processor to modulate a transparency factor of an image of an object as a function of an angle of incidence of a first vector at a second vector normal to a planar surface of the object, the first vector being normal to a viewing surface, wherein the function comprises a non-linear function.

35-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing a method, the method comprising:

modulating a transparency of an image of an object as a function of an angle of incidence of a first vector at a second vector normal to a planar surface of the object, the first vector being normal to a viewing surface; and

modulating the transparency non-linearly.